

Ickford News

This is an official warning. The first day of December occurred this weekend and Mme Basnett, Queen of all things Christmas, has declared the festive season open!

This morning I surprised Mme Basnett and her Year 6 charges by making it to the Ickford village church for the feast day of St Nicholas. I am really pleased that I changed my plans and made it in time to watch a group of year 6 children carry on the tradition of performing a tableaux about the life of St Nicholas Bishop of Myra (once a town in ancient Greece, now in Turkey) on whose life the legend of Santa Claus is based.

I have seen this performance each year since I joined Ickford but today's was the loveliest yet. All those involved deserve a name check particularly as I know taking part was voluntary and each child gave up something to turn up and take part. Furthermore, each child learned their lines by heart and took the trouble to source a costume. Therefore, Alexander, George, Molly, Sophie, James, Rosa, Max, Jessica and Saketh, I want to say "Thank you" and "very well done."

Though we are not a church school, it is, in my opinion, important that we engage with the community beyond our boundaries and the churches in the villages are very much central to lives of many of the residents within our catchment area. There is an added bonus that St Nicholas' is such a beautiful building and serves to remind the children of the history of where they live. It will of course be the venue for our KS2 Carol Concert later this month and I hope many of you will come and join us on this evening.

I am certain that Mme Basnett has sent out a parent mail listing upcoming Christmas events but I would like to encourage as many as possible not only to attend things but also, if you can spare time, to offer some assistance to Ben and his PTA team particularly with the organisation of the Christmas Fayre. This year promises to be a really good event and I think that the fact it is on the very last day of the term, will add to the Christmas spirit and enhance the festive mood.

Today is also significant for many non-Christians and particularly those amongst us who are Jewish as it is the beginning of Hanukkah or as it may also be known, the Festival of Lights. During Hanukkah Jewish people mark the rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem and on each of the eight nights of the festival (which this year ends on December 10th) a candle is lit in a menorah (candelabra). I want to wish a peaceful and safe Hanukkah to every Jewish family this year.

Sports news this week is the second place for the infant multi-skills team at Waddesdon last Tuesday. Although they didn't quite get gold (13 points below Brill) the team performed really well and in true Ickford style. Unfortunately, sometimes you need a little luck to go with all the talent and we just didn't get the roll of the dice.

I am sure you will have noticed that Mrs Palmer has joined our administration team as the new Finance Manager. I am delighted that she has joined us and thankful that she has rescued me from the ocean of spreadsheets and on-costs that I found myself drowning in these past months.

I am also very pleased to announce another addition to our staff, Mr Cave,

who will be taking over teaching PE from me as of next Wednesday. Some of you may know Mr Cave from his role at Lord William's School where he is a Pastoral Support Officer. In addition to teaching PE, he will also be supporting pastoral care at Ickford and working with us to ensure the mental well-being and happiness of the children. I think Mr Cave will be able to add a great deal to what we are already doing at Ickford and will be particularly beneficial for the children transferring to Secondary Schools later in the year. I know that everyone will make both him and Mrs Palmer very welcome.

I sign off in the knowledge that from tomorrow morning at Breakfast Club, I have to enjoy (read endure!) Mme Basnett's Christmas playlist until we break up and prepare myself for her annual Twelve Days of Christmas singalong. Oh the joy.

Have a good week,

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

7 th December	PTA Dinner
11 th December 2-3pm	KS1 Nativity for whole school, grandparents and siblings
13 th December 6.30-7.30pm	KS1 Nativity (No pre-school aged children)
17 th December	Christmas Lunch
18 th December 7pm	KS2 Carol Concert, St Nicholas Church
19 th December	Whole School Visit to Pantomime
19 th December	Christmas Fayre

School Lottery

If you would like the chance to win, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>



Newspaper Request

If you have any old newspapers at home, please bring them into school, our supplies are running low.

Lost PE Kit

Tiana in Class 3 has lost her PE kit, please can you check at home that it has not been taken by the wrong child.



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